

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104051 TOSEC 110375

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAKAR 2073 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BAMAKO
CONAKRY MOSCOW USUN NOUAKCHOTT SEOUL PARIS BANJUL 07 APR

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2073

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, SG

SUBJ: SENEGALESE INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION EMPHASIZES
MILITARY PREPAREDNESS

1. SUMMARY: SENEGAL'S 16TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE ON
APRIL 4 PRONOUNCED MARTIAL FLAVOR AND PLACED PROMINENT EMPHASIS
ON YOUTH. DPRK ACHIEVED PROPAGANDA TRIUMPH BY PRESENTING
GYMNASTIC EXHIBITION AND STADIUM FLASH-CARD DISPLAY INVOLVING
THOUSANDS OF SENEGALESE STUDENTS. PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S ADDRESS
EMPHASIZED SENEGAL'S DETERMINATION TO STAND UP AND FIGHT IF ITS
SECURITY WERE THREATENED IN FACE OF "ANARCHY AND INSTABILITY"
ON AFRICAN CONTINENT. SENGHOR ALSO DISCUSSED PROGRAMS TO TAP
ENERGIES OF NATION'S YOUTH. IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF MILITARY
STRENGTH IN INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE REINFORCED SENGHOR'S
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MESSAGE ON NATIONAL SECURITY. END SUMMARY

2. DPRK SCORED MAJOR PROPAGANDA COUP BY ORGANIZING AND OVERSEEING GYMNASTIC EXHIBITION AND FLASH CARD SHOW IN DEMBA DIOP STADIUM APRIL 3. TEAM OF SEVEN NORTH KOREANS SPEND THREE MONTHS SUPERVISING TRAINING OF 6,700 SENEGALESE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN COLORFUL SPECTACLE ATTENDED BY SENGHOR. PROGRAM DRAMATIZED SENEGALESE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, VENERATED SENGHOR AND PROMOTED THIRD WORLD SOLIDARITY WHILE ESCHEWING MORE HEAVY-HANDED DPRK PROPAGANDA THEMES). MOVEMENTS WERE EXECUTED WITH IMPRESSIVE PRECISION, AND PUBLIC SENEGALESE REACTION HAS BEEN ONE OF WARM APPRECIATION FOR NORTH KOREAN GESTURE AND PROFOUND PRIDE IN DEMONSTRATION OF NATIONAL DISCIPLINE AND MOTIVATION WHICH SPECTACLE PROVIDED.

3. SENGHOR'S ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS TO NATION EMPHASIZED MILITARY PREPAREDNESS. HE ASSERTED THAT SENEGAL COULD NOT REST WITH FOLDED ARMS "WHEN ANARCHY AND INSTABILITY REIGN IN AFRICA, WHEN, SINCE ANGOLAN WAR, EVERYONE AROUND US IS ARMING HIMSELF." WHILE REAFFIRMING SENEGAL'S POLICY OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND COOPERATION WITH ALL AFRICAN STATES, BEGINNING WITH ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS, SENGHOR DECLARED THAT "IF, IN SPITE OF THAT POLICY, WE ARE ATTACKED, WE WILL NOT ACT LIKE RABBITS; WE WILL FACE UP, WE WILL FIGHT, ARMY AND PEOPLE TOGETHER." SENGHOR SAID SENEGALESE COULD FEEL CONFIDENT AND SECURE, "IN SPITE OF THE SITUATION PREVAILING ON THIS CONTINENT." SENEGAL'S ARMY HAD HELPED MAINTAIN PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST AND WITH CIVIL TASKS AT HOME. NOW, HOWEVER, SITUATION DEMANDS THAT "DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITIES ON OUR FRONTIERS BE REINFORCED." SENGHOR SAID ARMY'S FIRE POWER WAS BEING INCREASED AND REGULAR MANEUVERS AND OTHER TRAINING PROGRAMS WOULD BE CONTINUED.

4. SENGHOR ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO NATION'S YOUTH. HE ASSERTED THAT "WE ARE LISTENING" TO THEIR ASPIRATIONS AND DESIRES. HE OUTLINED ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY IN FIELD OF SPORTS AND ANNOUNCED THAT NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE WILL BE ORGANIZED. BEGINNING NEXT YEAR, YOUTH WEEK WILL ALSO BE OBSERVED PRECEDING INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION. SENGHOR CONCLUDED WITH REVIEW OF PROGRESS UNDER NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND CURRENT EFFORTS TO FOSTER "GREATER DEMOCRATIZATION OF POLITICAL LIFE." COMPLETE TEXT OF ADDRESS IS BEING POUCHED.

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5. APRIL 4 PARADE LASTING THREE HOURS WAS DOMINATED BY MARCHING TROOPS OF ALL THREE MILITARY SERVICES (INCLUDING COMMANDO AND PARACHUTE GROUPS), MILITARY SCHOOLS, POLICE, PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, CUSTOMS OFFICERS AND FIRE FIGHTERS. EQUIPMENT INCLUDED SOME FORTY ARMORED CARS (SOME EQUIPPED WITH 90MM WEAPONS) AS WELL AS FIVE RECENTLY ACQUIRED FOUGA MAGISTER JETS WHICH MADE PASSES OVERHEAD, ALONG WITH HELICOPTERS AND TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT.

DISPLAY OF IMMACULATE EQUIPMENT AND WELL-OUTFITTERD MILITARY
MANPOWER LEFT LASTING IMPRESSION ON SPECTATORS AND REINFORCED
SENGHOR'S MESSAGE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE.

6. COMMENT: MARTIAL EMPHASIS OF INDEPENDENCE OBSERVANCE
REPRESENTS MOST PUBLIC MANIFESTATION TO DATE OF GROWING
SENEGALESE CONCERN OVER NATIONAL SECURITY IN FACE OF SOVIET
ACTIVITY IN NEIGHBORING STATES AND IN ANGOLA AND ELSEWHERE ON
CONTINENT. IT ALSO REFLECTS SENGHOR'S APPREHENSION OVER
IMPLICATIONS OF INCREASING DIVISION OF AFRICA ALONG IDEOLOGICAL
LINES. APRIL 4 DISPLAY CAME IN WAKE OF GOS DECISION THAT IT WILL
WITHDRAW ITS BATTALION FROM UN FORCES IN SINAI TO MEET DEFENSE
NEEDS AT HOME. UNSETTLED SAARAN SITUATION, CONTINUED HOSTILITY
BY SEKOU TOURE AND SECURITY PROBLEMS ALONG BORDER WITH GUINEA-BISSAU
(SEE DAKAR A-45) REPRESENT MOST IMMEDIATE SENEGALSE CONCERNS, BUT
SENGHOR'S PLEDGE TO REINFORCE NATIONAL DEFENSES POINTS TOWARD
LONG-TERM EFFORT TO BOLSTER GOS MILITARY CAPABILITY. EFFORT
TO CHANNEL YOUTHFUL ENERGIES INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEFENSE
EFFORTS REFLECTS FACT THAT YOUTH--IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL--
REPRESENTS MOST LIKELY SOURCE OF POLITICAL RESTLESSNESS WHICH COULD
MAR IMAGE OF NATIONAL DISCIPLINE AND UNITY WHICH SENGHOR WOULD
LIKE TO PROJECT.

7. UNITA FOREIGN MINISTER KAKUMBA MARQUES WAS PROMINENTLY
SEATED IN VIP TRIBUNE DURING PARADE.
AGGREY UNQUOTE SISCO

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